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ROOTS

Royal Oak Opportunity to Serve (formerly ACORN)

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Grand Slam Partnership Yields Safety Nets

The City of Royal Oak has a newly energized community resource called R.O.O.T.S. An acronym for Royal Oak Opportunity To Serve, the committee is comprised of community leaders and volunteers from a number of Royal Oak service organizations. Former known as ACORN, this group was recently renamed and re-chartered to help member organizations and the general Royal Oak community by providing solutions, volunteer assistance, fund raising leadership, special event management, research, and project promotion to further augment each organization's mission and efforts.

The 13 person committee includes the following member organizations: The Royal Oak Nature Society, The Royal Oak Animal Shelter, The Royal Oak Farmer's Market, The Royal Oak Historic Commission, The Royal Oak Senior Center, The Royal Oak Public Library, City of Royal Oak Parks & Rec Department, members of the Royal Oak City Commission, and community members-at-large.

The first project the committee tackled was a Royal Oak Parks & Recreation initiative to provide new surrounding safety nets on Memorial Park fields #2 and #3 located at 13 Mile and Coolidge Roads to keep fly balls (and the outfielders retrieving them) out of traffic. The effort supports the popular Royal Oak Sandlot League and impacts more than 1000 youths and adults involved each year. ROOTS researched this project and reached out to Grand Slam Baseball Training Center, Inc., proprietor Phil Roy. Mr. Roy generously provided nearly \$1600 to underwrite the costs of replacing and installing the new safety feature this spring.

"I was glad to respond to the appeal letter from Mayor Jim Ellison about youth and community athletic programs. I grew up playing in the Sandlot League and have great, fun memories playing in the league. As a former coach and board member serving the league, I know how important this activity is to families in Royal Oak."

The group presented its first success at the Royal Oak City Commission meeting on Monday, February 7, acknowledging Mr. Roy's generous investment in community athletics and recreation.

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